

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for generating a scanner includes receiving a definition of a plurality of patterns and receiving a definition of a respective association between each of the plurality of patterns and a respective executable action. The plurality of patterns and the respective associations are processed so as to form a scanner data structure capable of comparing input data to at least one of the patterns and causing execution of the associated executable action upon a match of the input data with the respective one of the plurality of patterns. The processing and the comparing are performed in the same active process.